

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera having a multi-shooting mode in which data of a ~~single~~-composite image is generated by arranging and compositing data of a predetermined number of frame images generated by continuous shooting, comprising:

a release switch for instructing execution of a shooting operation;

an image pickup ~~part~~ that performs the continuous shooting according to an operation to said release switch to generate data of a plurality of frame images in said multi-shooting mode;

~~an extraction processing part~~ a controller that changes an extracting rate according to the number of images generated by said image pickup ~~part~~, and extracts the data of the predetermined number of frame images from the data of the plurality of frame images according to the changed extracting rate; and

~~an image composition part that~~ the controller arranges and composites the data of the predetermined number of frame images extracted by said ~~extraction processing part~~ controller to generate the data of the ~~single~~-composite image.

2. (Currently Amended) The electronic camera according to Claim 1, wherein said ~~extraction processing part~~ controller performs the extraction at such intervals that intervals at which frame images in extracted data have been shot become substantially uniform.

3. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera having a multi-shooting mode in which data of a ~~single~~-composite image is generated by arranging and compositing data of a predetermined number of frame images generated by continuous shooting, comprising:

a release switch for instructing execution of a shooting operation;

an image pickup ~~part~~ that performs the continuous shooting according to an operation to said release switch to generate data of a plurality of frame images in said multi-shooting mode;

a ~~variation-calculating-part-controller~~ that calculates a difference between frame images in the data of the frame images generated by said image pickup ~~part~~, the difference representing an amount of variation in an object;

~~an extraction-processing-part that~~ the controller extracts data of the predetermined number of frame images from the data of the plurality of frame images at such intervals that the smaller the difference between the ~~frames~~ frame images, the longer the intervals; and

~~an image-composition-part that~~ the controller arranges and composites the data of the predetermined number of frame images extracted by said ~~extraction-processing-part controller~~ to generate the data of the ~~single~~-composite image.

4. (Currently Amended) The electronic camera according to Claim 3, wherein said ~~extraction-processing-part-controller~~ extracts the data of the predetermined number of frame images in ascending order of the calculated differences.

5. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera having a multi-shooting mode in which data of a ~~single~~-composite image is generated by arranging and compositing data of a predetermined number of frame images generated by continuous shooting, comprising:

a release switch for instructing execution of a shooting operation;

an image pickup ~~part~~ that performs the continuous shooting according to an operation to said release switch to generate data of a plurality of frame images in said multi-shooting mode;

a ~~variation-calculating-part-controller~~ that selects the data of at least the predetermined number ~~or more of~~ frame images from the data of the plurality of frame images

according to the number of frame images generated by said image pickup ~~part~~, and calculates a difference between frame images in the selected data, the difference representing an amount of variation in an object;

~~an extraction processing part that~~ the controller extracts the data of the predetermined number of frame images from the data of the plurality of frame images at such intervals that the smaller the difference between the frame images, the longer the intervals; and

~~an image composition part that~~ the controller arranges and composites the data of the predetermined number of frame images extracted by said ~~extraction processing part~~ controller to generate the data of the ~~single~~ composite image.

6. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera having a multi-shooting mode in which data of a ~~single~~ composite image is generated by extracting data of a predetermined number of frame images from data of a plurality of frame images generated by continuous shooting, and by compositing the extracted data of the frame images, comprising:

a release switch for instructing execution of a shooting operation;

an image pickup ~~part~~ that performs the continuous shooting according to an operation to said release switch to generate data of the plurality of frame images in said multi-shooting mode;

~~an extraction processing part~~ a controller that extracts the data of the predetermined number of frame images from the data of the plurality of frame images in said multi-shooting mode at such intervals that an Nth frame image data to be extracted is generated by shooting at a time of an Xth power of (N-1) where X is more than zero when a first frame image data to be extracted is assumed to be generated by shooting at a time zero; and

~~an image composition part that~~ the controller arranges and composites data of the predetermined number of frame images extracted by said ~~extraction processing part~~ controller to generate the data of the ~~single~~ composite image.

7. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera having a multi-shooting mode in which data of a ~~single~~ composite image is generated by arranging and compositing data of a predetermined number of frame images generated by continuous shooting, comprising:

a release switch for instructing start and end of the continuous shooting in said multi-shooting mode;

an image pickup ~~part~~ that performs the continuous shooting according to an operation to said release switch to generate data of a plurality of frame images in said multi-shooting mode;

~~an extraction processing part a~~ controller that extracts data of the predetermined number of frame images from the data of a plurality of frame images in said multi-shooting mode in such a manner that the data extracted includes data of frame images shot at the start and end of the continuous shooting; and

~~an image composition part that~~ the controller arranges and composites the data of the predetermined number of frame images extracted by said ~~extraction processing part~~ controller to generate the data of the ~~single~~ composite image.

8. (Currently Amended) The electronic camera according to Claim 7, wherein the ~~extraction processing part controller~~ changes an extracting rate according to the number of frame images generated by said image pickup ~~part~~ and extracts the data of the predetermined number of frame images from the generated data of the frame images according to the changed extracting rate.

9. (Currently Amended) The electronic camera according to claim 7, ~~further comprising a variation calculating part that~~ wherein the controller calculates a difference

between frame images of the generated data of the frame images, the difference representing an amount of variation in an object, and wherein

said ~~extraction-processing-part controller~~ extracts the data of the predetermined number of frame images from the data of the plurality of frame images at such intervals that the smaller the difference between the frame images, the longer the intervals.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for generating data of a ~~single~~-composite image by arranging and compositing data of a predetermined number of frame images generated by continuous shooting, comprising the steps of:

generating data of a plurality of frame images by continuous shooting;

changing an extracting rate according to the number of frame images generated and extracting the data of the predetermined number of frame images from the generated data of the frame images according to the changed extracting rate; and

generating the data of the ~~single~~-composite image by arranging and compositing the extracted data of the frame images.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for generating data of a ~~single~~-composite image by arranging and compositing data of a predetermined number of frame images generated by continuous shooting, comprising the steps of:

generating data of a plurality of frame images by continuous shooting;

calculating a difference between frame images in the generated data, the difference representing an amount of variation in an object;

extracting the data of the predetermined number of frame images from the generated data of the frame images at such intervals that the smaller the difference between the frame images, the longer the intervals; and

generating the data of the ~~single~~-composite image by arranging and compositing the extracted data.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for generating data of a ~~single~~-composite image by arranging and compositing data of a predetermined number of frame images generated by continuous shooting, comprising the steps of:

generating data of a plurality of frame images by continuous shooting;

selecting data of at least the predetermined number ~~or more of~~ frame images from the generated data of the frame images according to the number of frame images generated, and calculating a difference between frame images in the selected data, the difference representing an amount of variation in an object;

extracting data of the predetermined number of frame images from the generated data of the frame images at such intervals that the smaller the difference between the frame images, the longer the intervals; and

generating the data of the ~~single~~-composite image by arranging and compositing the extracted data of the frame images.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for generating data of a ~~single~~-composite image by extracting data of a predetermined number of frame images from data of a plurality of frame images generated by continuous shooting and by compositing the extracted data of the frame images, comprising the steps of:

generating data of a plurality of frame images by continuous shooting;

extracting the data of the predetermined number of frame images from the data of the plurality of frame images at such intervals that an Nth frame image data to be extracted is generated by shooting at a time of an Xth power of (N-1) where X is more than zero when a first frame image data to be extracted is assumed to be generated by shooting at a time zero; and

generating the data of the ~~single~~-composite image by arranging and compositing the extracted data of the frame images.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for generating data of a ~~single~~-composite image by arranging and compositing data of a predetermined number of frame images generated by continuous shooting, comprising the steps of:

instructing start and end of the continuous shooting;

generating data of a plurality of frame images by the continuous shooting according to the instruction;

extracting the data of the predetermined number of frame images from the data of the plurality of frame images in a such manner that the data extracted includes data of frame images shot at the start and end of the continuous shooting; and

generating the data of the ~~single~~-composite image by arranging and compositing the extracted data of the frame images.